

Polley Mansion
Sutherland Springs, Texas.

HABS No. Tex-326 ✓

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Texas-3

Historic American Buildings Survey
Bartlett Cocke, District Officer
615 Maverick Bldg., San Antonio, Texas.

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POLLEY MANSION
Sutherland Springs, Wilson County, Texas.

Owner: Mr. C.A. Goeth

Date of Erection: 1854

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Col. Joseph H. Polley

Present Condition: Good. New front porch, back porch, and galvanized iron roof over the original shingles. Slave quarters gone.

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Sandstone, shingle roof with cypress framing.

Other Existing Records: "San Antonio Express", December 30, 1928.

Additional Data:

The Polley Mansion located in Wilson County near Sutherland Springs was built in 1854 by Col. Joseph H. Polley. Col. Polley was a very well educated man. With the aid of negro slaves he constructed this massive but simple stone house so well that at the present time it is still in good condition.

The rectangular plan contains four main rooms and a large, wide stair hall on each floor. The house was heated with five fireplaces. The wooden frame front porch across the front was added at a later date; exact date not known. Second floor ceiling joists, roof rafters and all roof bracing consists of cypress timbers pegged together. System of roof bracing is expressive of construction ability and ingenuity. Rafters covered with cypress sheathing varying from 6" to 22" in width, finished with cypress shingles.

A slave kitchen was built to the northeast of the house, built entirely of cypress logs, and contained a large fireplace used for cooking purposes. This log cabin and the unusual stone fireplace add considerably to the charm of this mansion.

Col. Polley owned quite a number of negro slaves. About thirty shacks in the rear of the house once existed for housing these slaves; they are entirely gone today.

The old cistern built underground for storage of rainwater is as good today as when it was built approximately eighty eight years ago.

General Robert E. Lee was a close personal friend of Col. Polley, and visited in the mansion many times, joining in the festivities of that neighborhood. Tances were often held in the large and spacious hall extending thru the center of the house.

The present owner, C.A. South has taken considerable interest in preserving this house. In such custody it will remain for many years to come.

Author: Charles Bertrand
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APPROVED: Bartlett Locke
Bartlett Locke, District Officer.

Date: December 10, 1936.

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